

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2014 SPRING.....ISSUE #2/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



*Hoggatt School as seen through the
construction fence at
Meeker School in May this year.*

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The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

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Curator Dennis Wendell
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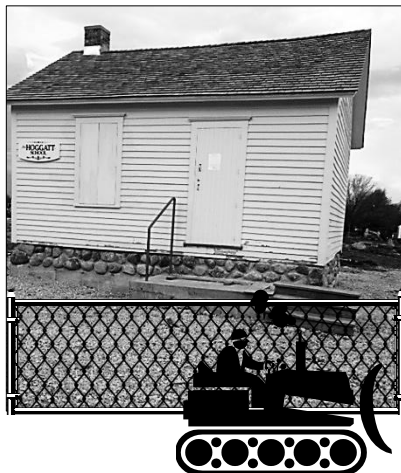
Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in local and state history through publications, programs, exhibitions, collections, archives and a historic site.

Headqtrs: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Open Mon-Fri, 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
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Phone: 515-232- 2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Due to construction at Meeker School, Hoggatt will be closed during the summer of 2014.

Hoggatt School Summer Programs to Relocate: Join us at 416 Douglas and Adams' Lawn!



Hoggatt School is still located in a construction zone at Meeker School, where the Ames Community School District is building a new elementary school on the south end of the former playground.

Hoggatt, left, is on a new concrete foundation but site grading has yet to take place.

Since we don't have access to the little school, summer programs will take place at the Ames History Center and the lawn of Adams Funeral Home. **Please join us there!**

Hoggatt Summer Programs: Sundays, June 1 to August 24

Free and open to the public.

ON THE LAWN, Adams Funeral Home, 5th and Douglas Ave., Ames Sundays, 2 - 4 p.m.: June 1, July 6, August 3

Civil War-era Games: Come play the simple but energetic games that school children played in the 1860s!

AT THE AMES HISTORY CENTER, 416 Douglas, Ames

Sunday, June 8, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Larry Mitchell Presenting: Jackknives, Whittling & Carving

Sunday, June 15, 2 - 4 p.m.

Special Exhibit: Celebrate Our Veterans!

Sunday, June 22, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Shannon Bardole Demonstrating: Broom Making

Sunday, June 29, 2 - 4 p.m.,

Special Exhibit: First Teacher - Sarah Emery

Sunday, July 13, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Jeri Heid Presenting: Children's Books in the 1860s

Sunday, July 20, 2 - 4 p.m.

Special Exhibit related to the Ames Sesquicentennial

Sunday, July 27, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Glenn Sibbel Presenting: Children, Mind Your Manners!

Sunday, Aug. 10, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Peter Hallock Presenting: The Eighth Grade Examination

Sunday, Aug. 17, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Dr. Pamela Riney-Kehrberg Presenting: Life for Children in the 1860s, based on her new book

Sunday, August 24, 2 - 4 p.m.

2:15 Ice Cream Social + Country School Teacher

Final Presentation in the 2014 Lecture Series!

Lecture will be at Ames City Auditorium, 520 Sixth Street, Ames, Iowa. Open to the public.

A \$3 freewill donation is requested at the door to assist with auditorium rental.

Tue., June 24, 7pm

By Douglas Biggs, Associate Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney

Ames and the College from 1890-1900: A Transformative Decade



In 1890 the city of Ames had 1,276 citizens, no municipal electrical, water or sewage service and a part time town marshal. Iowa Agricultural College (IAC) lay two miles west and was an isolated world unto itself. By 1900, Ames had 2,422 citizens, a publicly owned electric plant, state-of-the-art water and sewer systems and a new *Chicago & North Western* railroad depot. This growth was the work of many people, but it was fueled largely by the vision of President William Beardshear of IAC, with the *Ames & College Railway*, serving as the vehicle for these enhancements. Biggs will talk about the struggles and the triumphs of this transformative decade and the people who made it possible.

Sesquicentennial News

Sesquicentennial Fun for All!



Ames organizations have been very creative in presenting history-related programs!

So far this year, the Ames Choral Society presented a concert of works all by Ames or Ames-connected composers. Dance Co-Motion's Women in Motion workshop created dances based on historic photos and stories, and the Ames Children's Choir provided a "musical journey through the history of Ames" using vintage Ames pictures and traditional music.

Many more events are planned or are in the planning stages. The calendar is being updated and detailed information can be found on the Sesquicentennial website at www.Ames150.com.

Currently listed are:

- **Old Town Neighborhood Home & Garden Tour**, Sunday, June 22.
- **Ames 150 on the 4th**, July 3-5: Three exciting days of activities surrounding Independence Day, including live music, a themed parade, cultural programs reminiscent of a Chautauqua, a foot-race and much more!
- **Senior Variety Show**, Fri. & Sun., August 15 & 17
- **Dinkey Day**, September 26: in Campustown.
- **Platting Day**, December 17: marking the day 150 years ago when the town was laid out.
- **More to Come – keep checking!**

DEFINING AMES: 150 Historic People, Places & Events, 1864-2014

The Society's extensive sesquicentennial exhibits will be on view August 4 through October 25, 2014 at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas, Ames.

SAVE THE DATE for the Gala Opening & Fundraiser on Sat., August 2, 7-8:30pm!

Here's a sneak preview of the special programs to be presented at the Octagon while the exhibit is up:
mark your calendars now!

Tue., Aug. 26, 7pm: 150 Years in 50 Minutes: An Overview of Ames History by Margaret Vance, Ames Historical Society Research Assistant

Thu., Sept. 4, 7pm : By the Side of the Road: How Transportation Shaped Ames by Jeff Benson, Lincoln Highway Historian

Thu., Sept. 18, 7pm: Culture Under Canvas - Chautauqua Comes to Ames by Train & Tent by Dr. Charles R. Kniker, ISU Emeritus Professor of Education

Thu., Oct. 2, 7pm: The Ames Connection to World War II's Manhattan Project by Kathy Svec, daughter of a Project Researcher

Thu., Oct. 16, 7pm: Ames Has Been Home to Many by Sharon Wirth, Historic Old Town Neighborhood Association and Peter D. Englin, Ph.D., Director of Residence at Iowa State University

Sun. Oct. 19: 2pm, Ted Kooser Poetry Reading & Book Signing: Ames native and former U.S. Poet Laureate

Headquarters Happenings – Around 416 Douglas

Historical Society Commissions Sesquicentennial Art Piece

Ames artist Linda Emmerson has been commissioned by the Ames Historical Society to create a paper cutting to commemorate the city's 150th birthday (1864-2014).

Society curator, Dennis Wendell suggested the project be done by a local artist, preferably Ms. Emmerson who has been a resident here for 47 years and is known for her paper cuts done in the Swiss style of "Scherenschnitte" (scissors cuts).

Emmerson has established a tradition of creating commemorative cuttings, including local anniversaries for the Brunnier Gallery, Memorial Union, Ames Woman's Club and Christian Petersen Art Museum and other clients more distant.

Staff saw the project as a way to gain an original piece for the Society's expanding art collection and provide souvenir prints for residents.

The artist was invited to a group brainstorming session where two pages of possible topics and image sources were suggested. A month later, the group reconvened to consider Emmerson's rough sketch, make a few changes and give final approval for the design.



Emmerson has been a paper cut artist for 38 years. She said a major challenge was deciding what to omit from her creation! "It's difficult when you figure you have 150 years – 55,000 days -- to choose from and we need to include Iowa State as well as the city of Ames." (Above is a sample of her work.)

Emmerson borrowed an armload of books about Ames history and viewed images on the Society's website and in the History Center's archives, sometimes sketching from turn-of-the-century panoramic photos. She intends to represent life throughout the community's history rather than showing a strict chronological progression. "This has been an exciting and absorbing assignment!" she said.

The original paper cutting will be displayed at the Historical Society's sesquicentennial exhibit at the Octagon Center for the Arts starting August 2. The Society also plans to offer for sale a print of the original in reduced size suitable for framing.

Kunerth Remembered



During a visit to the Ames History Center on April 17, Bill Kunerth's sons, Jeff (L) and Bill (C) talked with retired journalism professor Tom Emmerson (R) about their father's newspaper columns. A year before his death in Dec. 2013, Bill donated a fairly complete collection of Ames Tribune columns he wrote between 1988 and 2012 under the name "The Old Fogey." Bill taught journalism at Iowa State from 1957-1988. Jeff is a columnist and reporter for the Orlando (FL) Sentinel, while Bill has served as publisher of a half-dozen papers west of the Missouri River.

More Upcoming Events

Fri. & Sat., May 30 & 31, 10am – 5pm both days
BOOK SALE at the Ames History Center

Wed., June 11, 1 – 5 pm
IOWA MUSEUM WEEK OPEN HOUSE
at the Ames History Center featuring refreshments, kids' activities, displays and more information about our organization

Wed. June 21, noon – 3 pm
COMMUNITY ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Pickett Fence Creamery ice cream at the Ames History Center

Mon., August 4, 10am – 5 pm
SESQUICENTENNIAL EXHIBITS open at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas

Fri., August 22, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
SESQUICENTENNIAL EXHIBITS
PUBLIC RECEPTION at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas

Sat. August 23, 1pm
WEDDING DRESS PRESERVATION CLASS at the Ames History Center; taught by Kate Greder; advanced registration required; more information coming...

Headquarters Happenings – Around 416 Douglas

Programs You Can Request

Groups around Ames have greatly enjoyed the Society's presentations on two subjects this year.

● Teresa Larson, coordinator of our "Shared Stories" oral history project, has been giving programs about her important work. She has interviewed a number of older residents about their experiences in many aspects of life in Ames and is always looking for leads to others who have stories to tell.

● Society Executive Director Casie Vance has prepared an illustrated Sesquicentennial talk about the founding of Ames that presents the basic facts about how our town came to be founded by the railroad.

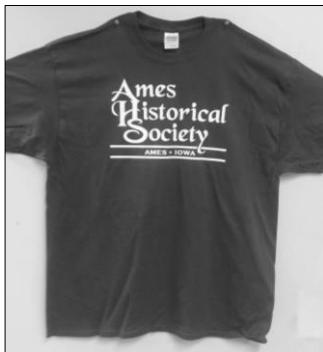
Requests for either talk may be made by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.

Now Open Saturdays!

In addition to our Monday through Friday, 1-5pm open hours, the Ames History Center is now open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. Stop in to see NEW exhibits! ➔

Museum Shop

Many unique items!



NEW - Society t-shirts, red, \$15

DVD: *Stitched Into Time: Remembering Collegiate Manufacturing Company*

"Song of Ames" magnets; Children's activity books

All of Farwell Brown's books on Ames

Bring this coupon for 25% off your entire purchase in the Museum Shop!

(members only; expires July 31, 2014)

Open Mon-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
or by appointment, 515-232-2148



Current History Center Exhibits

Exhibits at the Ames History Center change every month, so there is always something new to see!

FEATURE EXHIBIT: *Is This the Dinkey?* (above)

HERITAGE EXHIBITS (based on collection categories):

- Where it All Began: The Prairie in Ames
- 1915 City Hall
- Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Decades
- The Building of the Sheldon-Munn Hotel
- Camp Fire Girls
- A Boarding House of Equality: The Martin Family
- Tires Through Time: The Story of Bicycles in Ames
- Summertime Culture and Learning at the Chautauqua Festival



Members Night a Social Evening!

The April 17 Members-Only event at the History Center (above) was well attended and a fun evening of visiting friends, snacking and browsing new exhibits on display. There will be future Members-Only nights!

Memberships are an important component of our annual budget and enable us to keep the lights on and doors open! Members make it happen!

Headquarters Happenings – Around 416 Douglas

Thank You, Bob!



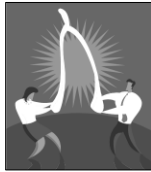
Bob Buck, member and long-time Ames resident, made a wonderful contribution to the remodeled History Center space by constructing a graduated set of display pedestals that are uniform in size. We are so grateful for his fine workmanship that allows us to put our best foot forward!

Wish List Follow-up

Several items on our Wish List in the last newsletter have come through the door!

Profuse thanks go to:

- an anonymous donor for a humidifier with built-in monitors and automatic shut-off.
- Janet Klaas and Phyllis Heffron for two newer vacuums for general cleaning (one for each floor).
- Martin family descendants for framing for large Martin Family crayon portraits.
- Bob Bourne for transferring 20 shares of Union Pacific stock to us. They'll be sold to buy badly needed up-to-date computers.



Still on the Wish List are:

- Used 8mm tape cassette player or recorder in good working order
- Compact-VHS to VHS converter
- Used desktop computers running Windows 7
- Funding for a regular student internship position
- Funding to begin a collections acquisitions fund so that we can purchase choice items. With the prevalence of online auctions, artifacts are now being sold by owners rather than being donated.

Contact us at 515-232-2148 or info@ameshistory.org if you can help!

Footnote on Stock Donation



Donor Bob Bourne says of his gift of 20 shares of Union Pacific stock for new computers, "This is a good story about giving an appreciated gift. It helps me avoid capital gains tax (I bought them for about \$35/share, now worth \$190/share) and I get the tax deduction for the gift. It's a nice way to show that the good business practices and success of the UP helps us once again." (The Society has received many grants from the Union Pacific Foundation.)



Goodbye to Champlin

To make way for a large-scale redevelopment project in Campustown, the historic Champlin Building at Lincoln Way and Welch Avenue (above) has been torn down, along with other structures, including the former Varsity and New Ames Theaters (below) and buildings that housed the L-Way Café and Student Supply Store.

The buildings were difficult for their owners to update to meet current needs and the new structure will accommodate more uses in a comprehensive design. Still, it was sad for local history buffs to see these landmarks disappear. The owners provided a number of opportunities to the Society to collect artifacts, and some exterior details will be re-used.



Do You Remember Younkers?

In the midst of an exciting conversion to other uses, the landmark downtown Des Moines Younkers Building was destroyed in a dramatic fire on March 29.

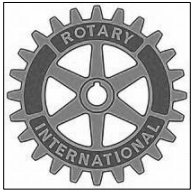
At its heyday, it was common for Ames residents to travel to Des Moines to shop at Younkers and lunch in the famous Tearoom.

The Society would enjoy hearing from members who have stories about their experiences there!

Write to us at PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010 or email info@ameshistory.org.



Thanks to Rotary



We are so grateful for a \$500 grant from the Rotary Club of Ames. It will help us publicize our summer and fall sesquicentennial events to a wider audience. Those activities include the June ice cream social, wedding dress preservation class, Halloween activities and an old-fashioned Christmas.

Going for 150!

The Society is pleased to have 527 active members and we'd love to add 150 more during this, our sesquicentennial year! If you know someone who would enjoy being a member, let us know! 515-232-2148 or info@ameshistory.org. Introductory memberships are \$15.

Objects Come Our Way

Collections Manager Sarah Carlson and Curator Dennis Wendell continue to accept and/or retrieve items for the Society's collection.

Highlights of recent additions are:

- Over sixty small Collegiate Manufacturing Co. pennants from various colleges and universities
- Ames Noon Lions Club records
- Matchbooks from various Ames businesses
- Photographs from two early Ames photography studios
- Section of original clay sewer pipe circa 1903
- WWII-era head scarf with Red Cross symbol
- Pillowcase from United States Naval Training School Ames, Iowa
- Varsity Theater sign
- Numerous pieces from the old Ames Middle School
- From Dr. John Sibley, the first urologist at McFarland Clinic: framed portrait photo, equipment used by him and his collection of kidney stones!
- Metal sign from Silver Saddle Motel



Report on Volunteers

Volunteer coordinator, Hannah Frederick, is tracking the contributions of our many volunteers, most of whom are working on various committees:

- March volunteer hours: 324.5 - a \$5,695 value!
- April volunteer hours: 519.33 - a \$9,114 value!

We love our dedicated volunteers!

When Boomers Inherit, Complications May Follow

Excerpted from a Feb. 10, 2014 New York Times article

Heirs have been struggling with the impact of inheritance since Jacob bought the right from Esau to be recognized as firstborn in the Book of Genesis.

But there have never been as many heirs with as much money as now, thanks to the intersection of two demographics: the 79 million baby boomers and the general thriftiness of their Depression-raised parents. The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College estimates that boomers will ultimately receive a total of \$8.4 trillion, most of it by 2030.

This group is different from heirs throughout history because they are relatively older, are probably inheriting from financially conservative parents and they are dealing with deep emotional reactions.

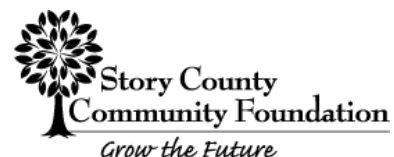
"Inherited money is sacred money," said Rick Kagawa, 61, a Californian who inherited money and property when his mother died in 2010. "Whatever you do, you should think about your parents and what they would think of what you did."

Often, emotional ties make heirs reluctant to alter their parents' investment strategy or shed property. Over time, however, thoughts can change. One said, "I realized that by selling the house, I wasn't selling my parents' spirit, and I wasn't selling my memories."

Ms. Bradley of the Sudden Money Institute suggests that instead of trying to memorialize parents by hanging onto their stock portfolio, offspring should **"do something with the money to create a lasting memory."** Heirs can endow a scholarship, name a room at a museum, or make some other philanthropic contribution.



To explore possibilities for memorials and other gifts, visit with Jennifer or Karen at the Story County Community Foundation, where the Society has three Endowment funds. 515-232-9200



1948 Cold Case: 2014 Update

by Nancy Bowers, Ames

from *Iowa Unsolved Murders: Historic Cases*

In the early hours of Mon., Nov. 8, 1948, 55-year-old Ames businessman Henry Chavis was gunned down behind his rural Story County home south of Ames. For decades, this unsolved murder has baffled and intrigued area residents. Theories and suspects were plentiful in 1948, but no one was charged or brought to justice.

On Monday, March 24, 2014, Cole Foster - who as an 11-year-old, found Henry Chavis's gun along Squaw Creek - agreed to meet me in Ames and recreate that discovery. The day was barely a month shy of the 64th anniversary of the date when Cole and his friend Boyd Larson (now deceased) had a great adventure.



Mon., April 17, 1950 was an overcast, humid spring day, with temperatures at 70° by mid-afternoon. The trees were just beginning to bud and the earth was coming back to life after a long Iowa winter.

Our day together in 2014 was chilly, with the type of wet cold a southern Coloradan like Cole feels to the marrow. Snow fell all morning and came again in a blinding squall towards evening.

Fortified by coffee, confections and memories-laden conversation, we drove south on the South Duff corridor through heavy traffic and the clutter of big box stores, turned west into what was once Zenor's dairy farm and not long ago a corn field. We drove behind an Applebee's, a State Farm Insurance office, and a Red Lobster before stopping at the far edge of a concrete parking lot.

Once out of our cars, we headed down a slope of mud and dead weeds and scrubby undergrowth to a spot nearly unchanged from the days when a young Cole Foster and his friends played along the banks, sometimes fishing, sometimes shooting sparrows with a .22, sometimes just heaving rocks into the eastward drifting creek, which Cole told me was flowing at about the same level in 2014 it was on the day he discovered Henry Chavis's gun in 1950.

At the creek's edge, Cole (above, rt) pointed and said, "That's where we found it." Sure and certain. What's remarkable is that we learned the spot where the gun



was found is at least 50 yards from the Duff Avenue Bridge that spans the creek, the place from which I had speculated Henry Chavis's killer threw the gun into the water. But that scenario has to be ruled out – it would not have been possible to heave the weapon that far from the bridge.

An alternate theory is that the killer shot Henry Chavis,



walked across the gravel road that is now S. 16th Street, followed a wagon or cow path on the Zenor Dairy Farm to Squaw

Creek and threw the weapon down the bank.

But where was the killer's car? Was it parked still at the Chavis farm to which he or she returned? Was it left along the gravel road for a quick getaway?

Or was the killer on foot the entire time? That scenario allows for a Chavis family member to have lain in wait for the victim, walked across the dairy farm fields to dispose of the gun and returned home without the need to travel in a car. Speculation continues!

Another scenario would involve parking the car on the bridge and walking 50 yards down the bank, but the risk of being seen by a passerby would have been high.

It was exhilarating and informative to share these memories with Cole Foster and I extend to him my sincerest thanks for helping to bring to light another important aspect of this historical unsolved murder.

For more information about the Chavis murder, go to www.IowaColdCases.org and search Story County.

1950 image: Ames Tribune; photos by Neal and Nancy Bowers

Bring John Blair Home!



Years ago, Ames Historian Farwell Brown, tracked down and brought to Ames a large, elegantly framed portrait of Ames' founder, railroadman John Blair. It is one of only five in existence and was painted in 1880. The painting hung in the Ames Public Library until 2012 when it was officially transferred to the Society.

The portrait was crated and taken to Minneapolis for restoration and will hopefully return in time for the Ames Sesqui-centennial celebration. We have \$1,500 toward our \$7,300 goal.



Will you help **Bring John Home?**

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us there:
www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label for information about your membership. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Yes! I'd like to help bring John home!

I would like to help with the restoration of the John Blair portrait and enclose a donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Send to:

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

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